IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 11, 14, 16, 20, 22, 25, 27, 30, 31, 34, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43, 45, 50, 52, 56-58, 61, 63, 66, 67, 70, and 72-74 are amended herein. New claims 76 and 77 are added herein. All pending claims and their present status are produced below.

1   1.   (Currently amended) A computer based method for providing leads to a sales agent from

2   an electronic lead database to enable the sales agent to contact the lead to determine interest in at

3   least one of a product or a service, the method comprising the steps of:

4   receiving by the electronic lead database an electronic lead request from a sales agent;

5   providing a lead from the electronic lead database to the sales agent in response to the

6   lead request;

7   receiving by the electronic lead database a lead selection from the sales agent, the lead

8   selection indicating that the sales agent elects to contact the lead; and

9   moving the lead from an active set of the electronic lead database to a selected set of the

10   electronic lead database for a predetermined time period, wherein leads in the

11   selected set cannot be provided to a second sales agent; and

12   sending a first confirmation message to the lead prior to the sales agent contacting the

13   lead, the first confirmation message for introducing the lead to the sales agent.

1   2.   (Cancelled).

1   3.   (Cancelled).

1   4.   (Cancelled).

1   5.   (Cancelled).

1   6.   (Cancelled).

1   7.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the lead request includes a lead

2   selection parameter.

1   8.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the lead includes at least one of

2   the group consisting of contact information and product information.

1   9.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the sales agent comprises one of

2   the group consisting of a reseller, salesperson, and service provider.

1   10.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the lead request comprises at least

2   one of the group consisting of a service request and a product request.

1   11.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   sending a ~~first~~ <u>second</u> confirmation message to the sales agent~~, and~~

3   ~~sending a second confirmation message to the lead~~.

1   12.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the first and second confirmation

2   messages are sent via a wide area network.

1   13.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein said wide area network is an

2   Internet.

1   14.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   sending a <u>third</u> confirmation message to an administrator.

1   15.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing further

2   comprises:

3   determining whether the lead request is authorized for the sales agent.

1   16.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing further

2   comprises:

3   receiving, from the sales agent, a lead selection parameter;

4 searching the <u>electronic</u> lead <u>database</u> for the lead selection parameter to generate a

5   search result; and

6   providing the search result to the sales agent.

1 17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the lead selection parameter

2 comprises one of geographical location and product.

1 18. (Cancelled).

1 19. (Cancelled).

1 20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

-2   replacing the lead into the active set of the <u>electronic</u> lead database to make the lead

3   available for a second lead request after the predetermined time period has

4   expired.

1 21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the second lead request is issued

2 by a second sales agent.

1 22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   receiving, from the sales agent, a message comprising a result for the lead; and

3   storing the result in the <u>electronic</u> lead database.

1 23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 further comprising:

2   parsing the message to identify the result.

1 24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 further comprising:

2   sending at least one of the group consisting of a result confirmation to the sales agent and

3   a result notification to the lead.

1 25. (Currently amended) A method for requesting a lead by a sales agent, the method

2 comprising the steps of:

3   sending a lead request to a<u>n electronic</u> lead database;

4   receiving a lead from the <u>electronic</u> lead database; ~~and~~

5   sending a lead selection to the <u>electronic</u> lead database, the lead selection indicating that

6   the sales agent has selected the lead, the sales agent for contacting the lead to

7   determine interest in at least one of a product and a service, wherein the lead in

8   the <u>electronic</u> lead database is moved to a selected set of the <u>electronic</u> lead

9   database for a predetermined time period after sending the lead selection<u>; and</u>

10   <u>sending a first confirmation message to the lead prior to the sales agent contacting the</u>

11   <u>lead, the first confirmation message for introducing the lead to the sales agent.</u>

1   26.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the lead request comprises a

2   service request.

1   27.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 further comprising:

2   sending a lead selection parameter to the <u>electronic</u> lead database for querying a subset of

3   leads.

1   28.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 further comprising:

2   processing the selected lead to determine a result for the selected lead.

1   29.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the result comprises one of the

2   group consisting of a sale, a no interest response, an evaluation, and a project.

1   30.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein the step of processing the selected

2   lead further comprises:

3   identifying the result for the selected lead; and

4   sending the result to the <u>electronic</u> lead database for storage of the result.

1   31.   (Currently amended) A system for providing leads from a <u>electronic</u> lead database to

2   enable a sales agent to contact the leads to determine interest in at least one of a product or a

3   service, the system comprising:

4   a lead unit configured to receive a lead request from a sales agent;

5   a lead control unit communicatively coupled to the lead unit and configured to provide a

6   lead from the <u>electronic</u> lead database to the sales agent in response to the lead

7   request;

8   an administrative unit communicatively coupled to the lead control unit and configured to

9   receive a lead selection from the sales agent, the lead selection indicating that the

10   sales agent elects to contact the lead; ~~and~~

11   a timing unit configured to move the lead from an active set of the <u>electronic</u> lead

12   database to a selected set of the <u>electronic</u> lead database for a predetermined time

13   period<u>; and</u>

14   <u>an input/output unit communicatively coupled to the administrative unit and configured</u>

15   <u>to transmit a first confirmation message to the lead prior to the sales agent</u>

16   <u>contacting the lead, the first confirmation message for introducing the lead to the</u>

17   <u>sales agent.</u>

1   32.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 31 wherein the administrative unit is further

2   configured to receive, from the sales agent, a lead selection parameter, wherein the lead control

3   unit is further configured to search the lead for the lead selection parameter to generate a search

4   result and to provide the search result to the sales agent.

1   33.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 31 further comprising:

2   a reseller control unit communicatively coupled to the lead unit and configured to

3   determine whether the lead request is authorized for the sales agent.

1   34.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 31 <u>wherein</u> ~~further comprising:~~

2   ~~an~~ <u>the</u> administrative control unit ~~communicatively coupled to the administrative unit and~~

3   <u>is further</u> configured to send a <u>second</u> ~~first~~ confirmation message to the sales

4   agent ~~and send a second confirmation message to the lead~~.

1   35.   (Cancelled).

1   36.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 31 wherein the timing unit is further

2 configured to replace the lead into the active set of the <u>electronic</u> lead database to make the lead

3 available for a second lead request after the predetermined time period has expired.

1   37.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 31 further comprising:

2   a lead status unit configured to receive, from the sales agent, a message comprising a

3   result for the lead and to store the result in the <u>electronic</u> lead database.

1   38.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 37 wherein the result comprises one of the

2 group consisting of a sale, a no interest response, an evaluation, and a project.

1   39.   (Currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising:

2   program instructions for receiving a lead request from a sales agent;

3   program instructions for providing a lead from the <u>electronic</u> lead database to the sales

4   agent in response to the lead request the sales agent capable of contacting the lead

5   to determine interest in at least one of a product and a service; and

6   program instructions for receiving a lead selection from the sales agent, the lead selection

7   indicating that the sales agent elects to contact the lead; ~~and~~

8   program instructions for moving the lead from an active set of the <u>electronic</u> lead

9   database to a selected set of the <u>electronic</u> lead database for a predetermined time

10   period, wherein leads in the selected set cannot be provided to a second sales

11   agent<u>; and</u>

12   <u>program instructions for sending a first confirmation message to the lead prior to the sales</u>

13   <u>agent contacting the lead, the first confirmation message for introducing the lead</u>

14   <u>to the sales agent.</u>.

1   40.   (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 39 further comprising:

2   program instructions for removing the lead from the <u>electronic</u> lead database to prevent

3   the lead from being provided to a second sales agent.

1   41.   (Cancelled).

1   42.   (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 39 further comprising:

2   program instructions for replacing the lead into the active set of the <u>electronic</u> lead

3   database to make the lead available for a second lead request after the

4   predetermined time period has expired.

1   43.   (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 39 further comprising:

2   program instructions for receiving, from the sales agent, a message comprising a result

3   for the lead; and

4   program instructions for storing the result in the <u>electronic</u> lead database.

1   44.   (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 43 further comprising:

2   program instructions for sending at least one of a result confirmation to the sales agent

3   and a result notification to the lead.

1   45.   (Currently amended) A method for providing leads to a sales agent from a <u>electronic</u>

2   lead database to enable the sales agent to contact the leads to determine interest in at least one of

3   a product or a service, the method comprising the steps of:

4   receiving by the <u>electronic</u> lead database an electronic lead request from a sales agent;

5   providing a lead from the <u>electronic</u> lead database to the sales agent in response to the

6   lead request;

7   ~~receiving by the lead database a lead selection from the sales agent, the lead selection~~

8   ~~indicating that the sales agent elects to contact the lead;~~

9   ~~sending a first electronic confirmation message to the sales agent, and~~

10   sending a <u>first</u> ~~second~~ electronic confirmation message to the lead <u>prior to the sales agent</u>

11   <u>contacting the lead</u>, the <u>first</u> ~~second~~ electronic confirmation message <u>for</u>

12   <u>introducing the lead to the sales agent</u> ~~configured to indicate that the sales agent~~

13   ~~has elected to contact the lead~~.

1   46.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the lead request includes a lead

2   selection parameter.

1   47.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the lead includes at least one of

2   contact information and product information.

1   48.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the sales agent comprises one of

2   a reseller, a salesperson, and a service provider.

1   49.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the lead request comprises at

2   least one of the group consisting of a service request and a product request.

1   50.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 45 wherein the first ~~and second~~ confirmation

2   <u>message is</u> ~~messages are~~ sent via a wide area network.

1   51.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein said wide area network is an

2   Internet.

1   52.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 45 further comprising:

2   sending a _second_ confirmation message to an administrator.

1   53.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the step of providing further

2   comprises:

3   determining whether the lead request is authorized for the sales agent.

1   54.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the step of providing further

2   comprises:

3   receiving, from the sales agent, a lead selection parameter;

4   searching the lead for the lead selection parameter to generate a search result; and

5   providing the search result to the sales agent.

1   55.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the lead selection parameter

2   comprises one of the group consisting of a geographical location and a product.

1   56.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 45 further comprising:

2   removing the lead from the _electronic_ lead database to prevent the lead from being

3   provided to a second sales agent.

1   57.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 45 further comprising:

2   providing the lead from the _electronic_ lead database to a second sales agent in response to

3   a second lead request, the second sales agent for contacting the lead to determine

4   interest in at least one of a product and a service; and

5   sending a ~~third~~ second electronic confirmation message to the lead, the second electronic

6   confirmation message configured to indicate that the second sales agent has

7   elected to contact the lead.

1   58.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 45 further comprising:

2   receiving, from the sales agent, a message comprising a result for the lead; and

3   storing the result in the electronic lead database.

1   59.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 58 further comprising:

2   parsing the message to identify the result.

1   60.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 58 further comprising:

2   sending at least one of a result confirmation to the sales agent and a result notification to

3   the lead.

1   61.   (Currently amended) A method for requesting a lead by a sales agent to enable the sales

2   agent to contact the lead to determine interest in at least one of a product or a service, the method

3   comprising the steps of:

4   sending a lead request to an electronic lead database;

5   receiving a lead from the electronic lead database; and

6   sending a lead selection to the electronic lead database, the lead selection indicating that

7   the sales agent has selected the lead, wherein in response to sending the lead

8   selection to the electronic lead database and prior to the sales agent contacting the

9   lead, an electronic message is sent to the lead for introducing the lead to the sales

10   agent ~~indicating that the sales agent intends to contact the lead~~.

1   62.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein the lead request comprises a

2   service request.

1   63.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 61 further comprising:

2   sending a lead selection parameter to the <u>electronic</u> lead database for querying a subset of

3   leads.

1   64.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 61 further comprising:

2   processing the selected lead to determine a result for the selected lead.

1   65.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 64 wherein the result comprises one of sale,

2   no interest, evaluation, and project.

1   66.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 64 wherein the step of processing the selected

.2   lead further comprises:

3   identifying the result for the selected lead; and

4   sending the result to the <u>electronic</u> lead database for storage of the result.

1   67.   (Currently amended) A system for providing leads from a <u>electronic</u> lead database to

2   enable a sales agent to contact the leads to determine interest in at least one of a product and a

3   service, the system comprising:

4   a lead unit configured to receive a lead request from a sales agent;

5   a lead control unit communicatively coupled to the lead unit and configured to provide a

6   lead from the <u>electronic</u> lead database to the sales agent in response to the lead

7   request;

8   an administrative unit communicatively coupled to the lead control unit and configured to

9   receive a lead selection from the sales agent, the lead selection indicating that the

10   sales agent elects to contact the lead; and

11   <u>an input/output</u> a communication unit coupled to the administrative unit for providing

12   electronic messages to the sales agent and to the lead in response to the

13   administrative unit receiving a lead selection from the sales agent, <u>wherein the</u>

14   <u>input/output unit is configured to transmit a first confirmation message to the</u>

15   <u>lead prior to the sales agent contacting the lead, the first confirmation message for</u>

16   <u>introducing the lead to the sales agent</u> ~~the electronic messages configured to~~

17   ~~indicate that the sales agent intends to contact the lead~~.

1   68.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 67 wherein the administrative unit is further

2 configured to receive, from the sales agent, a lead selection parameter, wherein the lead control

3 unit is further configured to search the lead for the lead selection parameter to generate a search

4 result and to provide the search result to the sales agent.

1   69.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 67 further comprising:

2   a reseller control unit communicatively coupled to the lead unit and configured to

3   determine whether the lead request is authorized for the sales agent.

1 70.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 67 further comprising:

2   a lead status unit configured to receive, from the sales agent, a message comprising a

3   result for the lead and to store the result in the <u>electronic</u> lead database.

1 71.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 70 wherein the result comprises one of the

2 group consisting of a sale, a no interest response, an evaluation, and a project.

1 72.   (Currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising <u>a computer program for</u>

2 <u>providing leads from a electronic lead database to enable a sales agent to contact the leads to</u>

3 <u>determine interest in at least one of a product and a service, the computer program comprising</u>:

4   program instructions for receiving a lead request from a sales agent;

5   program instructions for providing a lead from the <u>electronic</u> lead database to the sales

6   agent in response to the lead request;

7   program instructions for receiving a lead selection from the sales agent, the lead selection

8   indicating that the sales agent elects to contact the lead; and

9   program instructions for providing electronic messages ~~to the sales agent and~~ to the lead

10   <u>prior to the sales agent contacting the lead, the confirmation message for</u>

11   <u>introducing the lead to the sales agent</u> ~~in response to the administrative unit~~

12   ~~receiving a lead selection from the sales agent, the electronic messages configured~~

13   ~~to indicate that the sales agent intends to contact the lead~~.

1   73.   (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 72 further comprising:

2   program instructions for removing the lead from the <u>electronic</u> lead database to prevent

3   the lead from being provided to a second sales agent.

1   74.   (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 72 further comprising:

2   program instructions for receiving, from the sales agent, a message comprising a result

3   for the lead; and

4   program instructions for storing the result in the <u>electronic</u> lead database.

1   75.   (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 74 further comprising:

2   program instructions for sending at least one of a result confirmation to the sales agent

3   and a result notification to the lead.

1   76.   (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising:

2   receiving by the electronic lead database a lead selection from the sales agent, the lead

3   selection indicating that the sales agent elects to contact the lead.

1   77.   (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising:

2   sending a second electronic confirmation message to the sales agent.